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RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KYIV PRIORITY 0040
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1100
RUEHKS/AMEMBASSY MINSK PRIORITY 0061
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RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI PRIORITY 0064
RUEHLA/AMCONSUL BARCELONA PRIORITY 4339
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 05 MADRID 000154

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LISA HOLTYN)
DEPARTMENT PASS TO TREASURY/OFFICE OF TERRORISM AND
FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE (BOB WERNER)
EO 12958 DECL: 02/08/2035
TAGS KJUS, KHLS, PGOV, PREL, PTER, SP, PINS, KCOR, PINR,
XH, RS
SUBJECT: SPAIN DETAILS ITS STRATEGY TO COMBAT THE RUSSIAN MAFIA
REF: A. MADRID 76 B. 09 MADRID 869 C. 09 MADRID 870 D. 09 MADRID 1003
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Classified By: POLCOUNS William H. Duncan for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (C) SUMMARY AND COMMENT: National Court Prosecutor Jose "Pepe" Grinda Gonzalez on January 14 gave a detailed, frank assessment of the activ
//Bio Info//

2. (S//NF) Grinda, a Special Prosecutor for Corruption and Organized Crime, in early December wrapped up his prosecution of the alleged OC net
//Nomenclature//

3. (C) Grinda's was the first presentation at the January 13 meeting and his candor set the tone for an open exchange of ideas and informatior
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or Chechens. He nevertheless questioned the stigma surrounding the phrase "Russian mafia" and noted it is acceptable to say "Sicilian mafia."

4. (C//NF) Grinda stated that he considers Belarus, Chechnya and Russia to be virtual "mafia states" and said that Ukraine is going to be one.
//Identifying The Scope of The Threat the Russian Mafia Poses//

5. (C) Grinda suggested that there are two reasons to worry about the Russian mafia. First, it exercises "tremendous control" over certain str

7. (S//NF) Grinda said that according to information he has received from intelligence services, witnesses and phone taps, certain political p

8. (S//NF) Grinda said what he has read from 10-12 years' worth of investigations on OC has led him to believe that whereas terrorists aim to
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to use OC groups to do whatever the GOR cannot acceptably do as a government. As an example, he cited Kalashov, whom he said worked for Russian
//The Spanish Strategy to Combat the Russian Mafia: Follow the Money//

9. (C) Grinda traced the history of the Russian mafia in Spain to the mid-1990s, when several vory v zakone began to enter Spain. He said that

10. (C) Grinda says the money-laundering investigations have a two-fold objective: to prevent the targets from profiting from the original cri

11. (C) Grinda also addressed the challenges of combating OC when it enjoys political, economic, social and - especially - legal protection. C

12. (C) Grinda stated that OC begins to accumulate both economic and political power when it begins to bid for contract tenders on civil works
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He noted, however, that the vory v zakone do not engage in racketeering and murder, preferring to distance themselves from this activity and fc
//Thoughts on International Collaboration//

13. (S//NF) Grinda addressed the collaboration Spain receives from other countries regarding the Russian mafia. Early in his remarks, he thank

14. (S//NF) Grinda said that the Spanish National Police (SNP), the Civil Guard (GC), Spain's financial intelligence unit (SEPBLAC), and the s

15. (S//NF) Grinda described OC as "very powerful" in Georgia and claimed that the intertwined ties there between the government and OC began
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Spain (See upcoming septel on the Kalashov trial), Grinda said that he feels "completely abandoned" and "betrayed" by Georgia and the explanati

16. (S//NF) To illustrate his thoughts on the level of cooperation Spain receives from Russia, Grinda reviewed Spain's efforts to arrest Tarie

17. (U) The U.S. delegation to US-Spain Counter-Terrorism and Organized Crime Experts Working Group cleared this cable. SOLOMONT